

OIL & GAS

24 October 2019

Govt. opens up fuel retailing to non-oil companies

The government has eased fuel retailing norms, allowing non-oil companies to set up petrol pumps in India to increase investment and competition in the sector. While this appears to threaten the dominance of OMCs – owners of ~90% of India's 64,600+ retail fuel outlets – it will be an uphill task for a new entrant to dent OMC retail market share given their deep reach. This apart, a key positive from the policy shift is that it alleviates concerns over rollback of fuel price deregulation by the government (should oil prices breach US\$ 80/bbl).

Fuel retailing norms eased: The government has relaxed the requirement of prior investment in India's oil and gas sector (E&P, refining, pipelines) for a new entrant looking to set up a fuel retail outlet in India. Key revised criteria: (a) minimum net worth of Rs 2.5bn from Rs 20bn earlier; (b) companies must offer an alternate fuel option (CNG, electric charging, etc.); and (c) minimum 5% of outlets to be in remote areas within five years of authorisation. This opens up fuel retailing to multiple entities across sectors – retail, auto, logistics, CGD.

Competition for OMCs: The threat to OMC dominance in fuel retailing from increased competition may take a while to materialise considering the deep penetration of their retail outlets. Further, the policy move lends credence to the government's serious intent to sustain fuel price deregulation. Private operators such as RIL (~1,400 retail outlets) and Nayara Energy (~5,000) may take a cue from this and aggressively expand their presence in fuel retail. Private CGD companies, such as Adani Gas that recently tied up with oil major Total, may also take advantage of the revised policy to set up outlets.

BPCL deal valuation could be diluted: The scarcity premium of owning a fuel retailing licence now stands diluted for BPCL (~15,000 outlets). However, out of the ~58,000 outlets under OMCs, 45,000-50,000 are company-owned, giving them the necessary protection against competition. This leaves their dealer-owned outlets (~10,000) open for aggressive renegotiation with private companies such as RIL-BP that are well equipped financially. We thus see a high probability of dilution in the expected valuation premium for BPCL's stake sale, especially for its marketing business.

Infrastructure edge for IOCL, HPCL: IOCL's pipeline network (spanning crude and products) and HPCL have a significant advantage for marketing products. These companies should be the least affected by the policy shift.

Rohit Ahuja | Harleen Manglani

research@bobcaps.in

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ticker	Price	Target	Rating
RIL IN	1,398	1,670	BUY
IOCL IN	142	265	BUY
BPCL IN	508	535	ADD
HPCL IN	302	400	BUY

Price & Target in Rupees

RETAIL OUTLET DISTRIBUTION

OMCs	58,125
OMC owned	~48,000
Dealer owned	~10,125
Private	6,500
Nayara	~5,000
RIL	~1,400
Others	~100
Total	64,625

Source: Industry, Company, BOBCAPS Research

[Click here](#) for our Sector Report: GRM surge on IMO may sustain for long



Disclaimer

Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15%

ADD – Expected return from >+5% to +15%

REDUCE – Expected return from -5% to +5%

SELL – Expected return <-5%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 1 January 2018 (Hold rating discontinued and replaced by Add / Reduce)

Rating distribution

As of 30 September 2019, out of 77 rated stocks in the BOB Capital Markets Limited (BOBCAPS) coverage universe, 47 have BUY ratings, 15 are rated ADD, 6 are rated REDUCE and 9 are rated SELL. None of these companies have been investment banking clients in the last 12 months.

Analyst certification

The research analyst(s) authoring this report hereby certifies that (1) all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect his/her personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities, and (2) no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) in this report. Analysts are not registered as research analysts by FINRA and are not associated persons of BOBCAPS.

General disclaimers

BOBCAPS is engaged in the business of Institutional Stock Broking and Investment Banking. BOBCAPS is a member of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited and is also a SEBI-registered Category I Merchant Banker. BOBCAPS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda which has its various subsidiaries engaged in the businesses of stock broking, lending, asset management, life insurance, health insurance and wealth management, among others.

BOBCAPS's activities have neither been suspended nor has it defaulted with any stock exchange authority with whom it has been registered in the last five years. BOBCAPS has not been debarred from doing business by any stock exchange or SEBI or any other authority. No disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory authority against BOBCAPS affecting its equity research analysis activities.

BOBCAPS has obtained registration as a Research Entity under SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014, having registration No.: INH000000040 valid till 03 February 2020. BOBCAPS is also a SEBI-registered intermediary for the broking business having SEBI Single Registration Certificate No.: INZ000159332 dated 20 November 2017.

BOBCAPS prohibits its analysts, persons reporting to analysts, and members of their households from maintaining a financial interest in the securities or derivatives of any companies that the analysts cover. Additionally, BOBCAPS prohibits its analysts and persons reporting to analysts from serving as an officer, director, or advisory board member of any companies that the analysts cover.

Our salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to our clients that reflect opinions contrary to the opinions expressed herein, and our proprietary trading and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein. In reviewing these materials, you should be aware that any or all of the foregoing, among other things, may give rise to real or potential conflicts of interest. Additionally, other important information regarding our relationships with the company or companies that are the subject of this material is provided herein.

This material should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal. We are not soliciting any action based on this material. It is for the general information of BOBCAPS's clients. It does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situations, or needs of individual clients. Before acting on any advice or recommendation in this material, clients should consider whether it is suitable for their particular circumstances and, if necessary, seek professional advice.

The price and value of the investments referred to in this material and the income from them may go down as well as up, and investors may realize losses on any investments. Past performance is not a guide for future performance, future returns are not guaranteed and a loss of original capital may occur. BOBCAPS does not provide tax advice to its clients, and all investors are strongly advised to consult with their tax advisers regarding any potential investment in certain transactions — including those involving futures, options, and other derivatives as well as non-investment-grade securities — that give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. The material is based on information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. Opinions expressed are our current opinions as of the date appearing on this material only. We endeavour to update on a reasonable basis the information discussed in this material, but regulatory, compliance, or other reasons may prevent us from doing so.

We and our affiliates, officers, directors, and employees, including persons involved in the preparation or issuance of this material, may from time to time have “long” or “short” positions in, act as principal in, and buy or sell the securities or derivatives thereof of companies mentioned herein and may from time to time add to or dispose of any such securities (or investment). We and our affiliates may act as market makers or assume an underwriting commitment in the securities of companies discussed in this document (or in related investments), may sell them to or buy them from customers on a principal basis, and may also perform or seek to perform investment banking or advisory services for or relating to these companies and may also be represented in the supervisory board or any other committee of these companies.

For the purpose of calculating whether BOBCAPS and its affiliates hold, beneficially own, or control, including the right to vote for directors, one per cent or more of the equity shares of the subject company, the holdings of the issuer of the research report is also included.

BOBCAPS and its non-US affiliates may, to the extent permissible under applicable laws, have acted on or used this research to the extent that it relates to non-US issuers, prior to or immediately following its publication. Foreign currency denominated securities are subject to fluctuations in exchange rates that could have an adverse effect on the value or price of or income derived from the investment. In addition, investors in securities such as ADRs, the value of which are influenced by foreign currencies, effectively assume currency risk. In addition, options involve risks and are not suitable for all investors. Please ensure that you have read and understood the Risk disclosure document before entering into any derivative transactions.

In the US, this material is only for Qualified Institutional Buyers as defined under rule 144(a) of the Securities Act, 1933. No part of this document may be distributed in Canada or used by private customers in the United Kingdom.

No part of this material may be (1) copied, photocopied, or duplicated in any form by any means or (2) redistributed without BOBCAPS's prior written consent.

Company-specific disclosures under SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014

The research analyst(s) or his/her relatives do not have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this research report.

BOBCAPS or its research analyst(s) or his/her relatives do not have any financial interest in the subject company. BOBCAPS or its research analyst(s) or his/her relatives do not have actual/beneficial ownership of one per cent or more securities in the subject company at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of this report.

The research analyst(s) has not received any compensation from the subject company in the past 12 months. Compensation of the research analyst(s) is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

BOBCAPS or its research analyst(s) is not engaged in any market making activities for the subject company.

The research analyst(s) has not served as an officer, director or employee of the subject company.

BOBCAPS or its associates may have material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this research report.

BOBCAPS's associates may have financial interest in the subject company. BOBCAPS's associates may hold actual / beneficial ownership of one per cent or more securities in the subject company at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of this report.

BOBCAPS or its associates may have managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for the subject company or may have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past 12 months.

BOBCAPS may have received compensation from the subject company in the past 12 months. BOBCAPS may from time to time solicit or perform investment banking services for the subject company. BOBCAPS or its associates may have received compensation from the subject company in the past 12 months for services in respect of managing or co-managing public offerings, corporate finance, investment banking or merchant banking, brokerage services or other advisory services in a merger or specific transaction. BOBCAPS or its associates may have received compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the subject company in the past 12 months.